

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a first management apparatus for managing and settling a first transaction ~~in a virtual world~~, and generating a first privilege information generated in accordance with the first transaction, the first transaction being a virtual transaction, the virtual transaction being a transaction conducted between the first management apparatus and a user terminal, located at a remote location, without a point-of-sale terminal via a network ~~in the virtual world~~ using a user identifier that identifies the user in such a manner that the first privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other,

wherein the user identifier is stored in an IC card and uniquely associates the user to ~~an~~ the IC card, and the first transaction is made using the IC card in conjunction with the user terminal; and

a second management apparatus for managing and settling a second transaction ~~in a real world~~, and generating a second privilege information that is generated in accordance with the second transaction, the second transaction being a real world transaction, the real world transaction being a transaction conducted between the second management apparatus and the user ~~in the real world~~ via a point-of-sale terminal, and using the user identifier in such a manner that the second privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other,

wherein the second transaction includes a settlement processing based on the user identifier and a price, and is also made using the IC card in conjunction with the point-of-sale terminal, and

wherein the second management apparatus converts the first privilege information that is managed by the first management apparatus into privilege information managed by the second

management apparatus according to a prescribed conversion factor, and manages the privilege information obtained by the result of the conversion, such that the first privilege information is automatically converted to the second privilege information and added to a total of the second privilege information for the user when the user conducts transactions in the virtual world using the IC card.

2. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information is an addable point.

3. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information are associated with a maximum amount of money that the user can respectively use in the virtual world and the real world.

4. (Cancelled) ~~The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus converts, in response to a request from the user, the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into first or second privilege information to be managed by itself, and manages the first or second privilege information obtained by the conversion.~~

5. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the first privilege information and the second privilege information are the same type of information.

6. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the second management apparatus performs settlement processing in response to a settlement request about a transaction that the user has conducted.

7. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus performs the processing of issuing the point.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the first management apparatus provides the first privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the virtual world.

10. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the second management apparatus provides the second privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the real world.

11. (Currently amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:
managing and settling a first transaction, the first transaction being a virtual transaction, the virtual transaction being a transaction in a virtual world between a user and a first management

apparatus and a user terminal via a network, the user terminal, located at a remote location, without a point-of-sale terminal;

generating a first privileges information generated in accordance with the first transaction ~~that is conducted between the user and the first management apparatus via a network in a virtual world~~ using a user identifier that identifies the user in such a manner that the first privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other,

wherein the user identifier is stored in an IC card and uniquely associates the user to the an IC card, and the first transaction is made using the IC card in conjunction with the user terminal;

managing and settling a second transaction in a virtual world between the user and a second management apparatus;

generating a second privilege information generated in accordance with the second transaction, the second transaction being a real world transaction, the real world transaction being a transaction that is conducted between the user and the second management apparatus and the user via a point-of-sale terminal in a real world using the user identifier to identify the user in such a manner that the second privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the second transaction includes a settlement processing based on the user identifier and a price, and is also made using the IC card in conjunction with the point-of-sale terminal; and

converting, by at least one of a first management apparatus and a second management apparatus, the first privilege information into second privilege information to be managed by the second management information apparatus according to a prescribed conversion factor and managing the privilege information obtained by the results of the conversion, such that the first privilege information is automatically converted to the second privilege information and added to a

total of the second privilege information for the user when the user conducts transactions in the virtual world using the IC card.

12. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the first privilege information and the second privilege information are the same type of information.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information is an addable point.

16. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the first management apparatus provides the first privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the virtual world.

17. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the second management apparatus provides the second privilege information in accordance with a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the real world.